

## Ad Hoc Redistricting Meeting Minutes

### Attendance

#### In-Person:

Meagan Tuttle	Diane Meyerhoff	Robert Bristow-Johnson
Jim Holway	Sarah Carpenter	Jeff Comstock
Greg Shepler	George Love	Sal Millichamp
Bernie Carver		

#### Zoom:

Hannah King	Evan Litwin	Christopher-Aaron Felker
Sandy Wynne	Daniel Munteanu	Peter Keating
Erhard Mahnke	Jamie Balch	Suki Rubin
Barbara Headrick	Carol Livingston	Bill Church
Anne Brena	Keith Pillsbury	Linda Rizvi
Jon'n Chapple-Sokol	Lea Terhune	Rama Kocherlakota
JoMaricela Constantino	Jordan Butterfield	Ethan Fellows, CEDO
Kolby LaMarche		

### 5:00-5:15 PM (15 mins) Public Forum: 2-minute limit per speaker

- Rama Kocherlakota- leading off the meeting and beginning the public forum
- Keith Pillsbury- Put together a presentation regarding Ward 8 data. Discrepancy on the statistics of Ward 8's voting and population data. Statistics can be found in the Meeting Recording. In Summary, Keith's opinion is that the student population in Ward 8 should be divided equally amongst the other wards
- Lea Terhune- Spoke on troubles on obtaining information, and objected to taking public comments during the hearing
- Jeff Comstock- Speaking as a resident: Likes having 2 councilors and 2 schoolboard members → Appreciates having options in representations, also neighborhood and district representation is valuable and critical and provides an opportunity for more direct communication between elected officials and residents
- Rama K- moved on to introductions and will open the floor later

### 5:15-5:30 PM (15 mins) Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Purpose Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee Members & Diane Meyerhoff, Third Sector Associates

- Full Introductions of Committee members can be found on Meeting Recording
  - Rama Kocherlakota Ward 6
  - Daniel Munteanu Ward 3
  - Robert Bristow-Johnson Ward 7
  - Anne Brena Ward 8

- Lea Terhune Ward 4 Alternate
- Richard Hillyard Ward 1
- George Love Ward 2
- Jim Holway Ward 4
- Greg Shepler Ward 5

**5:30-5:45 PM (15 mins) Overview of Redistricting: Dan Richardson, City Attorney & Meagan Tuttle, Principal Planner**

- Rama explained reasoning for redistricting (census data)
- Dan Richardson, City Attorney
  - Elaborates on the city charter and its role in determining when districts need to be redrawn
    - Burlington is unique because in VT there are only a few cities with proportional representation such as the districts and wards, however this means we have to perform redistricting
    - Went over details of Burlington as well as stats and facts on the current system on both a city level as well as state level
  - Explanation of presentation slides (found online)
    - Must Haves and Should Haves
    - Evaluation Criteria 10 years ago vs considerations for now

**Meagan Tuttle Presentation**

- City Population Data
- Ward Level Population Data and deviations
  - Ward 1 most populace
  - Ward 7 least populace
  - More than a 10% difference in largest and smallest districts

**5:45-6:50PM (65 mins) Facilitated Discussion of Redistricting Criteria and Community Priorities, Diane Meyerhoff**

- Opened up to the Floor
  - Jon'n Chapple-Sokol
    - Proposes a system with more ward city councilors and few at large
    - Want councilors who prefer ward issues as their biggest concerns
  - Lea
    - Supports Jeff Comstock's idea of 2 councilors per ward
    - Wants face to face, door to door, personal contact
    - Increased workload of councilors
  - Linda B
    - Redistricting should not be gerrymandered

- Points towards ward 8 as gerrymandered due to ‘wings’
- UVM limits access to campus, making contested races difficult for nonaffiliated candidate
- Wishes for ward 8 to be reformed and its problematic nature to be resolved
- Dave F
  - Worried about disconnect between ad hoc committee and city council
- Erhard Mahnke
  - Ward 8 Concerns, worried about gerrymandering
  - Wishes for 13 people on City Council
- Christopher-Aaron Felker
  - Difficulties of 4 district system, recommend switching back to 7 wards with 2 councilors per ward model
- Evan Litwin
  - Wondering about how Ward 7 will grow due to its increased size, agree with pretty much everything that has been said so far
- Bill Church
  - Need to increase diversity of the wards

### **Menti Poll**

- Taking input from audience through survey

### **6:50-7:00 PM (10 mins) Next Steps**

There will be another Ad Hoc Redistricting Meeting – Listening Session in December, details can be found on the City Redistricting website.

### **Opened the floor up to more public comments**

- Barbara Headrick
  - Need to be open minded on shape and length of the wards due to the odd shape of the city itself
- Lea Terhune
  - Tie vote is a no vote
    - Points to upcoming bonds which require a 2/3 vote to get to yes
  - Agrees with Christopher on points and talk about how parties don’t dominate all topics, 2 councilors per ward work together
    - Erhard Mahnke
      - Agrees and talks about maybe have 3 councilors per ward and how it might have similar effects
- Robert Bristow-Johnson
  - Brief history of councilors per wards
  - Unavoidable for a part of old north end will be attached to new north end within a ward if we change the number of the ward
- George
  - Options for survey changes to better suit taking input

- Anne Brena
  - Is George going to be emailing us a copy of the revised survey? (yes)
- Discussion and vote on what to do with survey
  - Short version of survey
    - Yay: 5
    - Nay: 1

Short Survey Questions:

Rank your top 5 priorities in redistricting and open response

## Q&A Report

Question Report								
Report Generated:	Nov 18, 2021 6:55 PM							
Topic	Webinar ID	Actual Start Time	Actual Duration (minutes)	# Question				
Ad-hoc Redistricting Meeting	837 6469 3973	Nov 17, 2021 4:37 PM	144	2				
Question Details								
#	Question	Asker Name	Asker Email	Answer(s)				
1	I'd like to speak at the hearing. Thanks.	Linda	<a href="mailto:linda.rizvi.npasc@gmail.com">linda.rizvi.npasc@gmail.com</a>	at the public forum at the beginning?				
2	i want to make a comment on redistricting. When would that be?	Linda	<a href="mailto:linda.rizvi.npasc@gmail.com">linda.rizvi.npasc@gmail.com</a>	after this ten minute time for public input, there will be a presentation about the redistricting process and then time for input	Okay .	You can decide when is the appropriate time.	Thanks !	I'm confused. Everyone here is speaking to the redistricting. Should I also speak now?